News release

Partial solar eclipse for the UK

24 March 2006

This Wednesday - 29 March - the UK will experience a partial solar eclipse, as the moon passes in front of the sun. At this stage, the weather across the UK is forecast to be unsettled, with a mixture of rain or showers, and drier, clearer spells.

Facts and figures on the eclipse

- Areas of the UK with the 'greatest' partial eclipse will be parts of the south-east of England and East Anglia, with up to 28% of the sun's surface being covered.
- The eclipse will commence at approximately 1045 BST in London and end at 1223 BST. In Edinburgh the times are 1055 BST and 1217 BST.
- Eclipse totality will not occur in the UK. The path of totality will cross the South Atlantic and Africa, leaving the Libyan/Egyptian coast, before heading towards Turkey and onto Georgia, Kazakhstan and Russia.
- The next partial solar eclipses in the UK are on 1st August 2008 and then on 4 January 2011.

This view of Earth shows the path of totality, with other figures of 0.20 etc. representing percentages, e.g. 20% of the Sun's surface that will be covered by the moon. Image © *Astronomy Now*: Greg Smye-Rumsby

REMEMBER: never look directly at the sun. Project an image of the Sun through the pin hole in a piece of card onto another piece of card, to view the partial eclipse.

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